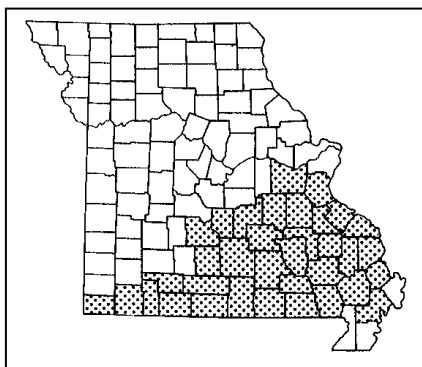


Shortleaf Pine

Pinus echinata Mill.

Shortleaf pine is the only pine native to Missouri. It is one of the four principal southern yellow pines and lumber from any one or a mixture of them is lumped together and called southern pine. It is generally found in Missouri on dry, sandy soils, frequently of sandstone origin. It occurs in small pure stands, but is most often mixed in with oaks and hickories. Its range is from the counties along the Arkansas border north through the central and eastern Ozarks.

The woods of southern pine species are quite similar in appearance. The sapwood is yellowish to white and usually quite narrow. The bark is rough with a scaly appearance; older trees have large, irregular plates of a cinnamon red color. Shortleaf pine is moderately heavy, strong, hard and stiff. All the southern pines have a moderately large percentage of shrinkage, but are stable when properly seasoned. Throughout its native range in Missouri, pine is available as lumber. It is frequently planted as an ornamental tree. The rings are distinct and there is an abrupt transition from springwood to summerwood. Pine products find use as lumber, sheathing, subflooring, boxes, millwork, pallets, railroad ties, posts and poles. It is a major pulpwood species in southern states. Pine must be treated with preservatives if it is used in ground contact, as the heartwood is only moderately durable. Southern pine plywood, while not manufactured in Missouri, is readily available at retail lumber yards throughout the state. Resinous splinters of the heartwood are known to everyone who has lived in the Ozarks as "fat pine" or "lightwood" – an excellent fire starter for wet or green wood. The lumber is excellent for home workshop use when properly dried.



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